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### Reflections of a Pirate Archaeologist

As a student cross-registering from MIT, I wasn't sure what to expect for my first Harvard class. Compared to the many problem sets assigned in my technical classes at MIT, this collaborative project with the Peabody museum was a welcome change. I thought this project, studying a model ship as if it were an actual shipwreck, to be a brilliant solution to the logistical restraints of teaching underwater archaeology. The Peabody museum staff was incredibly helpful and generous in allowing us to work with these models; however, (as I am sure is the case with many archaeologists), I wish I could have had more time with the actual model. Commuting from MIT meant I could not easily plan for repeated viewings of the model; fortunately, I was able to take notes and pictures during my only visit. I imagine this is somewhat similar to real underwater archaeology in that study of the "shipwreck" may be limited by access to the site and that much of the information learned is from notes, pictures, and archival research afterwards. Although we did not work with a real shipwreck, investigating the model ship in this way was a good substitute for experiencing elements of real underwater excavation. In addition, we learned in class about the duty of archaeologists to share their findings and educate the public—knowing that my research for this project will be available online for the public to see makes me feel as if I am truly a maritime archaeologist.

On a different note and in a frivolous attempt to connect my studies at MIT and Harvard, I am proud to say that I will probably be the first (and only) pirate to have learned to protect and preserve our underwater cultural heritage instead of salvaging treasure from shipwrecks. At MIT, we have the opportunity to receive a pirate's certificate<sup>1</sup> after completing four specific PE classes

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about MIT's Pirate's Certificate, here is an article published in the Boston Globe about it: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/arts/2012/03/03/mit-awards-pirate-certificates-undergraduates/7bevphhaZi94oVMvctNsIL/story.html>

(archery, fencing, pistol, and sailing). Since I've recently completed my fourth class, becoming a certified pirate will be a fitting (yet ironic) end to this semester!